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Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

Proposals of amendments to ATP: Pending proposals

ATP batch certificates for small insulated or refrigerated containers¹

Transmitted by the Government of France

I. Context

Use of small insulated or refrigerated containers

1. Small insulated or refrigerated containers having an internal volume of less than 2 m³ are widely used for the transport of perishable foodstuffs.
2. The number of small insulated or refrigerated containers in use in Europe is comparable to the number of vehicles such as wagons, semi-trailers, trucks, and vans. For example, in France, there are more than 110,000 road units with valid ATP certificates and there are more than 100,000 small insulated or refrigerated containers used for the transport of perishable foodstuffs.
3. Although the majority of transporters only use a few containers, some transporters use several thousand or tens of thousands. These large-scale transporters account for more than 80% of the fleet.

¹ In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2010–2014 (ECE/TRANS/208, para. 106; ECE/TRANS/2010/8, activity 02.11).



Example of a fleet of small insulated containers

Manufacturing of small insulated or refrigerated containers

4. Small insulated or refrigerated containers are standard, serially produced goods. Options are very limited. There are fewer than 10 manufacturers in Europe. Each manufacturer generally produces several thousand of these small containers per year.

5. Most of these containers are manufactured to comply with ATP regulations in terms of both refrigeration systems and insulation.

ATP certificates for small containers

6. In practice, it is impossible to manage ATP certification for small containers when a fleet of several thousand units is involved, as the certificates cannot accompany the small containers as they would a truck. This issue has been addressed in ATP by the introduction of ATP plates which are allowed to replace the certificate and markings on small containers.



ATP plate on a small container

7. Most small containers are identified by an ATP plate and a manufacturer's plate. The plates do not, however, list all of the entries recorded in a certificate.

The problem

8. It is impossible to issue and monitor the hundreds or thousands of certificates required for large fleets of small containers. Most of these small containers are identified

only by an ATP plate issued by the competent ATP authority without any individual certification or marking.

9. Most operators wish nonetheless to have printed certificates for their fleets of small containers.

10. It would be very useful to have general ATP certificates issued for batches of small insulated or refrigerated containers of the same model.

11. France has experimented with an ATP batch certificate of this kind for domestic use only. This certificate has met both manufacturers' and users' needs.

Proposal

12. This proposal would create within ATP the possibility to issue ATP batch certificates only for small insulated or refrigerated containers.

13. To allow such certificates to be issued, new text should be added after annex 1, appendix 1, paragraph 3, of ATP.

Impact of the proposal

14. The amendment will facilitate work for many companies and reduce their costs for managing ATP certificates.

II. Proposed amendment to ATP

15. It is proposed to insert the following boldface text in annex 1, appendix 1, paragraph 3, of ATP:

“3. A certificate of compliance with the standards shall be issued by the competent authority of the country in which the equipment is to be registered and recorded on a form conforming to the model reproduced in appendix 3 to this annex. **For batches of identical serially produced small containers having an internal volume of less than 2 m³, a batch certificate may be issued by the competent authority. In such cases, all the container identification numbers, or the first and last identification numbers of the series, shall be indicated on the compliance certificate in lieu of the serial number of each individual unit.**”